FTA news

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ED WORKERS UNION OF

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DEPT. OF LABOR

Drive To Raise Wages Pushed By CIO Board

Washington, D. C.—At the CIO Executive Board meet- here on Nov. 1, the CIO pledged to continue its wage ase drive "to enable workers and their families to intain a decent standard of living and assure sustained ing power to keep the of industry going."

The wage campaign must be run the broadest possible basis, in- ing all the people in the com- ity, CIO President Philip Mur- told the Board. The people t be told the facts of the CIO's to maintain take-home pay, said.

t the same meeting, the Board to urge United Nations' con- of atomic energy; authorized setting up of an American- Trade Union Committee similar British committee; to study the question of set- up an American-Italian com- ; sharply opposed compul- military training; adopted a ans' program; supported ap- riations to UNRRA; and de- return of the U. S. Em- ent Service to the Federal ment.

he wage resolution pointed out management's "feeble excuse their financial position is such they cannot afford any wage es without corresponding es in prices" had been re- to be utterly false by a report of the Office of War ilization and Reconversion.

Raise Possible

OWMR report showed an ated decline of $30 to $35 in workers' take-home pay while business can expect ion in profits after taxes— an they netted in wartime. n in overtime, elimination ime upgrading, and repeal profits taxes alone should a 24% increase in wages effect on prices, the re- ated.

Truman's wage policy as ed in his radio address also "has supported the of the CIO," the resolu- d. "The President specifically enunciated that decreasing business costs and the excellent profit position of corporations 'add to the ability of industry to increase wages.'"

Supporting Murray's speech at the Board meeting, PAC Chairman Sidney Hillman emphasized the political consequences of low wages and employment. Without jobs for all at decent pay, he said, we would have disunity and disruption in this country. If we have another depression, fascist groups here will take advantage of popular discontent and we will be headed for American fascism and World War III.

Outlaw Atom Bomb

On the question of atomic energy, the Board voted to begin "immediate negotiations with Britain and Russia to agree on world-wide atomic energy controls, and extension of the agreement thereafter to the United Nations."

It also urged the United Nations to outlaw "use of atomic energy for military purposes, and all production of atomic bombs." For the U. S., it demanded "a democratically organized national agency to deal domestically with atomic energy, composed of representatives of government, labor, industry, farmers, churches, universities, scientists and military forces."

In its resolution on veterans, the CIO Board addressed a plea to Congress to "reject all attempts to divide veterans and workers" and enact legislation "of concrete value to all veterans."

The resolution emphasized that "there can be no satisfactory solution to the problems facing returning servicemen unless our government takes the necessary steps to insure a healthy national economy."

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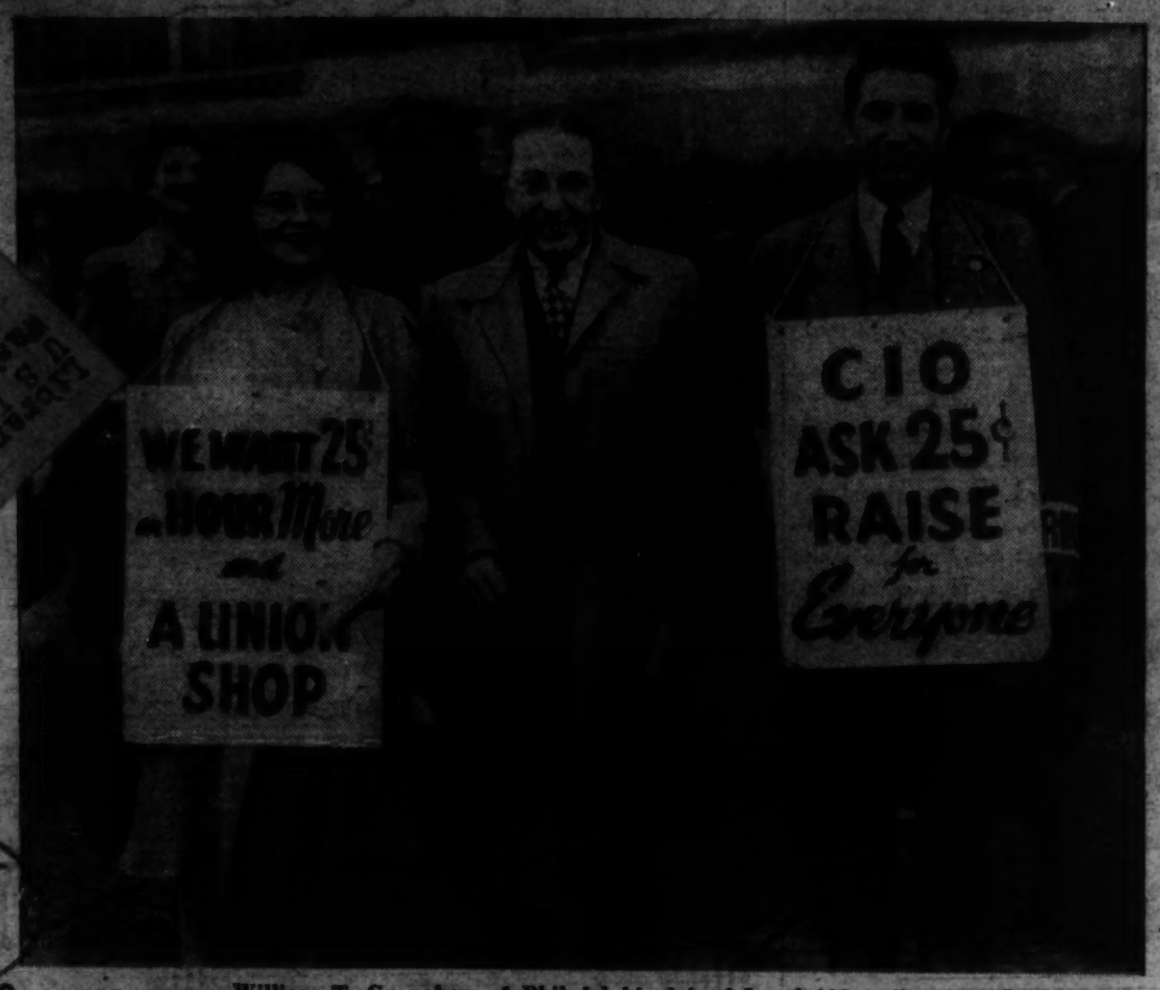
Thumbs Up At American Tobacco



Congressman William T. Granahan of Philadelphia joined Local 186 strikers on the picket line in front of the American Tobacco Company plant on Nov. 9, in a gesture of support to the strikers' demands. The Congressman is shown, above, with Peg Kendig, Strike Committee Secretary (left) and Emil Dean, Int. Org. (right). The American Tobacco strike began at the Philadelphia plant on Oct. 15, and spread to the Charleston, S. C., and Trenton, N. J., plants shortly after. Senator Francis J. Myers also issued a statement in support of the strikers' demands. (See story on Page 4.)

Strike Committees of the three American Tobacco plants got together shortly after the strikes began to formulate a joint program. They are shown above at the Philadelphia Strike Headquarters. Joint strike demands include a 25c hourly increase; 65c minimum; Union shop; and a no-discrimination clause in their contracts. The Company, which paid an average of $13,833,945 annually in excess profits taxes during the war years, forced the strike action by refusing to negotiate for decent wages. In Charleston, the community was aroused over police provocation on the picket line and an attempt of four thugs to knife Local 15 President Reuel Stanfield.

STRIKE
STRIKE
STRIKE

CIO Backs TrumanNatl. Health Plan

Washington, D. C.—Hearty support of the CIO to the general principles set forth in Pres. Truman's message to Congress asking a national health program was voiced Nov. 20 by CIO Pres. Philip Murray.

Murray's statement said "we congratulate the President on his statement with respect to the construction of hospitals and related facilities. The CIO is on record supporting the expansion of public health and child care services. The CIO has already indorsed the Kilgore bill (S. 1297) for scientific research, including the sections on medical education and research. We are also on record as supporting the related provisions in the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill.

Necessary Step

"It has long been apparent to the CIO that a national health insurance system for prepayment of the costs of medical care is a necessary next step. We have indicated our willingness to consider the participation of voluntary organizations in the insurance system, but favor the general principle of compulsory insurances as necessary to nationwide coverage.

"No group in the community knows better than organized labor the importance of disability insurance as protection against the loss of wages from sickness and disability. We urge Congress to proceed at once to a consideration of these measures, and especially to the immediate passage of the amended Hill-Burton bill to meet the objections set forth by Pres. Truman and by Sen. James E. Murray in his minority report, in their opposition to turning over control of hospital construction to a private organization or group."

THE WAY HE WANTS IT

OPA Administrator Chester Bowles Tells Why 65-75c Minimum Is Needed

Washington, D. C.—"It is a national disgrace that today, when our national production and income are at peak peacetime levels, there should still be millions of Americans who exist on pitifully low wages—wages that mean malnutrition . . . wages that eat steadily into the health and efficiency of the worker," said OPA Administrator Chester Bowles, testifying before the Senate Committee on Education and Labor, on Nov. 2. in favor of the 65-75c Minimum Wage Bill.

Indicating the need for a 65c minimum in the tobacco industry, Bowles revealed that "58% of the workers receive less than 65c an hour, the highest percentage to be found in any industry."

Proof of the industry's ability to pay, Bowles indicated, lies in the fact that only 9% of the $154 million in tobacco profits for June, 1944 would need to be spent for such an increase. "The resulting level of profits would still stand 22% above the industry's prewar level (of profits)," he added. And at another point in his speech he said that "with the reduction to a 40-hour week, and the elimination of overtime, the average cost of labor per manhour has been cut. In the tobacco industry, this is expected to offset almost exactly half the increase resulting from the proposed higher minimum wage."

"Good Economics"

Reviewing the inadequacy of the 40c minimum established in 1938, Bowles said that it was scarcely a living wage then. "After seven years, it surely is time to re-examine the problem," he declared, pointing to the rise in the cost of living.

While the question of fair treatment for American workers is an important consideration in raising the minimum to 65c, Bowles stressed that it "is good economics, too."

"Wages, high production, and good profits go hand in hand. . . . The worker who has money for good food, for recreation and for self-improvement is a more efficient, better satisfied worker than one without such advantages.

"That is why the countries that have high wages are without exception the countries that have high labor productivity. In whatever sections of a country you go, where you find sweatship wages, there you find that labor productivity is low, profits are low, and the living standards of employee and employer alike are low. It is the lesson of our economic history that low wages drag down the whole economy, and that good wages more than pay for themselves. There is no getting around this basic proposition," said Bowles speaking from his experience as a former businessman.

Market For Farmer

"The other half of the economic case for higher minimum wages," he continued, "is their essentiality in providing good markets. . . . These days both business and Government are exerting their every effort and spending hundreds of millions of dollars in developing new markets all over the world for the products of American economy. But right here at our feet lies our greatest undeveloped market—a market which can be tapped to provide income and employment opportunities for everybody simply by raising the level of minimum wages. . . .

"Every dollar paid out in additional wages (among low-income groups) is a dollar that is going to be spent on the products of American factories and American farms. . . . The farmer's great problem is not the wages that he pays for his hired help, but good markets for his products.

"The one thing this bill can be depended upon to do is to expand the farmer's markets. The more purchasing power there is in the cities, the greater are the markets for the farmer. That has always been true. . . . As the city income rises, the demand for farm products and the income of the farmers rise with it. . . . Low-income groups spend 50% more of their income for food. The farmers would thus be a major beneficiary of the extra purchasing power which a 65c minimum wage would put in the hands of low-paid workers."

Tell It To Congress

CONGRESS plans to recess on December 20, so immediate action is needed on the following measures. Send plenty of letters and follow them up by visiting your Congressmen while they are at home for the Christmas holidays.

Smith-Connally Act Amendments (H.R. 3937)

Makes unions and union leaders liable to fines and jail for strikes "in violation of contracts" and bans political activity by unions. It is now before the House Rules Committee.

ACTION: Write Chairman Sabath, Rules Committee, to reject and refer to House Labor Committee. Get your own Representative to oppose it.

Hobbs Bill (H.R. 32)

Fines and jail sentences for unionists again, under the pretext that picketing violates the Anti-Racketeering statute. Before Rules Committee with danger of passing to House Floor.

ACTION: Write Sabath and your own Representative to oppose.

Gwynne Bill (H.R. 2788)

Would make it impossible for workers to sue for back pay under the Wage-Hour Act after one year. Applies one-year limit to 15 Federal laws. It is on the House calendar.

ACTION: Wire your Representative to watch out for this and to be on the floor to vote against it.

Poll Tax Repeal (H.R. 7)

Should be on Senate calendar for early action, but Barkley is hesitating.

ACTION: Floods of letters to Senators are needed and should stress early action; vote for HR 7, not constitutional amendment; and vote for cloture to limit debate and prevent filibuster by poll-tax Senators.

Un-American Committee

Hook resolution, abolishing this un-democratic and dangerous committee, needs Discharge Petition No. 12 to get it onto the Floor.

ACTION: Tell your Representative to sign the Discharge Petition which 29 Congressmen signed in the first few hours.

AND DON'T FORGET: Keep up the letter-writing campaign in support of the Pepper-Hook 65-75c Minimum Wage Bills: S. 1349 and HR 3914!

Farm Union OK's Labor's Wage Fight

Utica, N. Y.—Farm income will drop 15% next year unless organized labor succeeds in its fight against wage cuts, Pres. James G. Patton of the Nat'l Farmers Union told delegates at the Farmers Union's northeastern district convention here on November 17.

The convention went on record in favo. of maintaining price controls and preventing inflation. It urged the liberalization of the GI bill of rights, including a 40-year repayment plan on loans to help veterans acquire farms. It adopted an overall milk program, demanded United Nations control of production for explosive purposes of atomic energy and opposed the peacetime conscription bill.

The convention commended labor for its contribution to the war effort and for supporting "forward looking farm legislation" and it backed up labor's present struggle against wage cuts.

Peace—Or War?

In his keynote speech Patton stated that "the issue is abundance or scarcity—peace or war." He urged that the farmers support labor in its fight to maintain wages, since the proposed wage cuts would insure a return to scarcity levels of farm production. He also called for passage of the full employment bill and criticized Congress for delaying and weakening the measure.

Sharply repudiating the May-Johnson bill on atomic energy and the peacetime conscription bill, Patton insisted that the atomic bomb be turned over to the United Nations Organization. "In effect we're saying that we must fight World War III," he declared, "and that means Russia. We must not get into such a war. We must learn to understand Russia and other nations, to live with them and to trade with them."

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Win Portland, Ore., Cannery Election

Portland, Ore.—Spurred by the success of FTA in the northern California cannery election, employees of the Libby, McNeill and Libby cannery here recently voted for FTA by a score of 354 to 127 for the AFL Teamsters.

Organizing was directed by Captain David Saunders of the FTA staff, assisted by Jean Murray. Appointment of David Teitlebaum as permanent International Representative in the Portland area was announced by Pres. Donald Henderson following the election.

Demand 30% Increase In West Coast Canneries

San Francisco, Calif.—A 30% wage increase for California's 200,000 cannery, packing shed and citrus workers in the rural areas was demanded by FTA at the California-Arizona Regional Conference held recently.

One hundred-fifty delegates, including representatives of the 10 new FTA locals who came into the Union since the sweeping victory won in the NLRB election in October, attended the Regional Conference. From 60,000 to 75,000 cannery workers in Northern California are now represented by FTA as a result of the election victory.

Following the Regional Conference, the cannery workers voted to form a California Cannery and Food Processing Workers Council.

The council will handle contract negotiations in the nation's biggest food processing industry — the canneries which cover California's Central Valley and coastal areas and produce 90% of the country's canned peaches and apricots, 40% of the national tomato pack and vast amounts of asparagus, spinach, olives and figs. The canneries involved produce more than $150,000,000 of canned goods annually.

Ten Locals Formed

At the same time it was announced by Luisa Moreno, Regional Director, that ten new FTA locals formed during the cannery campaign have affiliated to the California State CIO Council on the basis of 13,600 members. All of the locals will send delegates to the eighth annual California CIO Convention, as will the 7,000 members of Local 78, composed of packing shed workers; and Local 25, Los Angeles and Orange county; Local 7, San Francisco branch of the Alaska Cannery Workers; and Local 64, the Fish Cannery Workers Union of San Diego.

New FTA cannery locals are Local 50, Oakland; Local 60, Hayward; Local 76, Stockton; Local 77, Sacramento; Local 82, Modesto; Local 83, Oroville; Local 85, Sunnyvale; Local 90, San Jose; Local 94, Selma-Visalia, and Local 91, Contra Costa.

Fifty delegates from the cannery locals met Nov. 18 in Oakland and drew up a program recommending formation of the California Cannery Council to the ten locals. The delegates will meet again in Stockton on Dec. 16, after locals have approved plans for the Council, for formal organization of the new Council

Local 78 Wins Raises In Tomato Packingsheds

By Kenneth Howard, Education Director, Local 78

Salinas, Calif.—A raise from 10c to 12c per L. A. (large) lug for the packers in the tomato sheds, and increases for most classifications of floor help have been established by Local 78 for the 1945 season. The new wage scale is covered by contracts just signed with most of the tomato sheds in the Watsonville, Tracy, Brentwood, and other areas.

Establishment of the new rates came just in time to prevent the development of a strike situation in the Tracy-Brentwood area. New scales established, besides the 12c for packing an L. A. lug, include 14c for a naked L. A. lug; 85c an hour for sorting, stamping and checking; $1.15 an hour for trucking to carloader and receiving crew; $1.15 an hour for set off and set on men; and $1.20 to $1.35 an hour for dumper, depending on the system used.

Plans for the reorganization of Local 78 to provide for local autonomy received the approval of the membership and became effective November 1. The plan provides that each of the four areas in the local shall elect their own executive board and shall be responsible for the administration of affairs of the local in their particular area. The four areas making up the local are: Salinas-Watsonville-Hollister, Imperial Valley-Yuma-Westside, San Joaquin-Sacramento-Santa Clara Valley, Salt River Valley. A joint council will coordinate the work of the areas.

Elections of temporary officers have already taken place in the Salinas-Watsonville-Hollister and in the San Joaquin-Sacramento-Santa Clara areas. In the former area, the officers are Holman Day, Pres.; Walter Sims, Earl McCreery, Bill Lehman, and W. H. Hamilton, Vice-Pres.; Ethel Alcorn, Secy.-Treas.; Earl Montgomery, A. Elston and Nona Patton, Trustees. Temporary officers for the latter area are: Ralph Hargrove, Pres.; Harry Rassmussen, Docia Blair, Ed Albritton, Dan Neil and Margaret Briggs, Vice-Pres.; and Rufus Davis, Chuck Doucher and Nell Neil, Trustees.

Win Hills Bros. Strike: Pay Increases; Holidays

By Irene Gallagher, Reporter

Brooklyn, N. Y.—It took six long weeks of hitting the pavements, but Local 207's strike at the Hills Bros. plant was finally settled with wage increases all around.

The workers' 100% solidarity won a 21% increase for women in the Date Dept.; various increases for men ranging from 2½c to 6c an hour; six holidays with pay; two weeks vacation with pay; seniority rights; a guaranteed 60c an hour minimum for women and a 70c minimum for men.

Solid support from FTA locals and other CIO bodies was shown by contributions totalling $2,501.37. The following is a list of the organizations that contributed:

Contributors

Local 56, Trenton, N. J.; Local 88, Newark, N.J.; Local 105, New Brunswick, N. J.; Local 273, New York, N. Y.; Local 293, Glenolden, Pa.; Local 69, Lima, Ohio; Local 120, Akron, Ohio; Local 55, Middletown, Ohio; the Quaker Oats Locals; Northeastern Regional Council; FTA National Office; Tide Water Industrial Union Council; Insulated Paper Workers Union Council; Nashville Industrial Union Council; Wayne County Industrial Union Council; Broome County Industrial Union Council; and Int. Vice-Pres. Dixie Tiller.

Boycott of Products

The strike, which was settled on November 3, started on September 24 with a walkout of the 350 employees, following the Company's refusal to grant the Union's wage demands. Picketing at the plant was supplemented by secondary picketing of the chain stores and groceries where Dromedary Dates were sold. In many stores the dates were removed from the shelves and returned to the Company. The boycott spread with the distribution of boycott leaflets to all the FTA Locals and other CIO Unions.

Three Vets Back Again in Local 179

By Clyde DeGood, Reporter

Toledo, Ohio — Local 179 welcomes back into its ranks three of our members who have returned from the Armed Forces: Louis Anthony, William Christian and R. A. Brown. The boys say they are glad it's over, and now they can help gain and hold a living wage through the CIO.

FTA's Northern California Drive got full support from the Local when we went over the top at our last meeting in filling our contribution quota. Now, we're plugging for the Victory Loan Drive with J. Bloom signing the workers up for bonds. We've already filled our quota on the Community Chest Drive.

Urge Full Coverage In Wage-Hour Law

By Florence Palmer, Reporter

Seattle, Wash.—Local 7-2 sent a telegram to Rep. Folger urging him to work for FTA's demand to remove the 14-week seasonal exemption from the Wage and Hour Act. According to the FTA Washington Newsletter, he promised to discuss it with the House Labor Committee.

Messages of support and financial contributions were sent by Local 7-2 to the American Tobacco strikers.

Substantial Increases In Quaker Oats Plant

By Jack Sparks, Int. Rep.

St. Joseph, Mo.—An average 17% wage increase, time-and-a-half pay for Saturday work, double time for Sundays and 6 holidays, improved vacations and other gains were reported by Local 125 following the signing of a new contract with the Quaker Oats Co. The new contract establishes the highest common labor rate paid in this city's industrial plants.

Wages were increased 11½c an hour for every worker in the plant. The six holidays will be paid at straight time when not worked, and workers re-called on the job are guaranteed 4 hours at time and a half pay. A clause in the contract provides that wages may be re-opened any time during the contract year.

Vacations were awarded on the basis of one week for one year, 2 weeks for 4 years and 3 weeks for 20 years. An improved arbitration set up in the grievance procedure and improved seniority provisions were also included in the new contract.

With these solid gains to spur them on, Local 125 expects shortly to complete consolidation in the plant with 100% membership. Over the past 4 months the membership has already been doubled.

Leadership Training School: "Organize — for substantial wage increases" was the theme of the FTA Leadership Training School held November 5-10 in Winston-Salem, N. C. Delegates from Local 22, Winston-Salem; Local 23, Apopka, Fla.; Local 26, Suffolk, Va.; and from Local 45, Richmond, Va., met in two sections — 21 delegates in section 2 (left) and 11 delegates in section 1 (right) for experienced union leaders.

Discussions on the CIO drive for wage increases and other current issues; organizing methods and strike strategy; and the operation of FTA, especially the steward system, were led by International Secy.-Treas. Harold J. Lane and Education Director Connie Anderson. George Squier of the Jefferson School taught American labor history. Palmer Weber came from the National Office of the CIO Political Action Committee for a day's discussion on how to organize to win public officials who will act in the interests of the people. A session on labor economics was conducted by Reg. Dir. Frank Green, and Int. Org. O. E. McKaine lectured on Negro history and special Southern problems. In the evenings, the delegates heard a lecture by Max Yergan of the National Negro Congress; there were speeches and movies for the Local 22 Shop Stewards; and, Friday night, a fried chicken supper was served by Velma Hopkins and the other Local 22 delegates, followed by an FTA radio broadcast calling on veterans, farmers, storekeepers, etc., to support the CIO wage demands. On Saturday morning a true-false quiz finished up the week's work.

General Pres. Honald Henderson in presenting the diplomas reminded the delegates that the school is useful only if the delegates can better serve the membership as a result of it.

Turn Thumbs Down on Products that Don't Pay a Living Wage!

2500 workers of the CIO Food, Tobacco and Agricultural Worker's Union are on strike for decent pay in three American Tobacco Company plants. These workers manufacture cigars at the American Tobacco Company plants in Philadelphia, Pa., and Charleston, S. C., and at the Henry Clay and Bock Company plant (a subsidiary of American Tobacco) in Trenton, N. J.

They are striking for a 65c per hour minimum; 25c increase in pay; and a no-discrimination clause in their contract.

The American Tobacco Company, which made more than $41 million in profits last year, says NO to these demands.

DON'T BUY:

CIGARETTES
- Lucky Strike
- Pall Mall
- Melachrino

CIGARS
- La Corona
- Bock y Ca
- Henry Clay
- Cabanas
- Antonio y Cleopatra
- El Roi Tan
- Chancellor
- Cremo

CIGARETTE PAPERS
- Riz La Croix
- La Croix Wheatstraw

PIPE TOBACCO
- Bull Durham
- Half-and-Half
- Tuxedo
- Blue Boar
- Peerless
- Liberty
- Five Brothers
- Cutty Pipe
- Ivanhoe

PLUG & TWIST
- Piper Heidsieck
- Cotton Boll
- Mayos
- Spear Head
- Penn's Natural Leaf

• FTA-CIO •

Local 273 Wins Big Back Pay

By Ralph Garcia, Secy.-Treas., Local 273

New York, N. Y.—Some 750 members of Local 273 received back pay awards recently ranging up to $300 apiece, as the result of contracts negotiated last June with the D. Emil Klein Cigar Co., La Primadora Cigar Co., and the Regensberg, Lincoln and Ulmer, H. Anton Bock, Schwab Bros. and Baer, and Eichen cigar shops. The contracts provided 7% wage increases retroactive to a year prior to negotiations, among other gains.

It took a long time for the retroactive pay checks to come through, but when they did, broad smiles of happiness indicated that the Union had triumphed again and that the workers were solidly behind it.

At the Bond Mark Cigar Co., the workers are on strike in protest against the Company's attempts to reduce piece rates. The Union is demanding 25% increases. Because the plant was started during the war, the firm was unable to match competitors of longer standing. They want to create new piece rates lower than the prevailing ones.

The strike will continue until the firm decides whether or not they will be able to remain in business at the standard rates. Meanwhile, the workers' appeals to storekeepers to remove Bond Mark cigars from their showcases has been getting a good response.

Local 273 members are supporting the striking American Tobacco workers in Charleston, Trenton and Philadelphia, by picketing the Company's main office in New York.

Nearing 100% Goal In Local 71 Drive

By Mae Reid, Reporter

Van Wert, Ohio — Local 71 is nearing the goal of 100% membership at the Deisel-Wemmer-Gilbert cigar plant here with 49 new members signed up in October. The good results are due to the cooperation of our members and the punch which Bus. Agt. Joe Emmons puts into his fine leaflets.

The new officers of the Local installed at our last meeting are: Catherine Baer, Pres.; Almeda Crone, Vice-Pres.; Della Conley, Chief Steward; Mae Reid, Fin. Secy.; and Mable Miller, Rec. Secy.

Local 91 Requests New Wage Increases

By Katie Scott, Reporter

New Orleans, La.—Local 91 has been making a name for itself in the New Orleans CIO. Spurred on by the gains of 2-week vacations, and the additional holidays at time and a half, if worked, provided in the last contract, the Local is now set to go into new negotiations for wage increases.

Grievances, too, have begun to be handled more efficiently. The most recent settlement was won through arbitration.

Local 91 has been backing up its demands by legislative action and letters to Congress, and by contributing to the Textile Workers' strike and to the Consumers' League's campaign for a 65c minimum wage.

Local 638 Gives to Am. Tobacco Strike

By Miriam Cliff, Reporter

Lancaster, Pa. — Newly elected officers of Local 638 are: Miriam Cliff, Pres.; Harry Tilbrook, Vice-Pres.; Verna Nuss, Rec. Secy.; Mary Duschl, Fin. Secy:; Andrew Dotterman, Treas.; Anna Stern, Trustee; and Marion Rhoads, Sgt.-at-Arms.

A $50 contribution to the American Tobacco strike was voted by the membership.

Edith Lonkoski is back at the Consolidated Cigar plant in Lancaster, Pa., again following Local 638's successful fight for her re-hiring. Edith, a former Shop Steward in the plant, had left during is war to go into defense work. After V-J Day, she applied for her old job at Consolidated, but was refused even though others were being hired.

The Union, charging the Company with discrimination because of Sister Lonkoski's former Union activities, brought the case up as a grievance. A satisfactory settlement was reached, and now Edith is back at her old job full of her old Union spirit and enthusiasm.

"I'r glad to be back and a member of Local 638 once again," said Edith happily. "Local 638 fights for the interests of its former members as well as its present ones."

By Miriam Cliff, Reporter

Win Substantial Raises At Consolidated Plants

Camden, N. J.—Wage increases, six holidays with pay and union shops were won on Nov. 14 by Locals 80 and 638 for the employees of the Consolidated Cigar Corp. plants here and in Lancaster, Pa.

These benefits provide for a 5% increase, retroactive to Sept. 11, 1945, and an additional 10% increase on Jan. 1, 1946, or the date the plants go back to a 40-hour week. Further increases will be negotiated when a new national wage policy will be set.

The Union shop will become effective on Feb. 1, 1946, in the Lancaster plant, and on May 1, 1946, in the Camden plant.

G. D. Ellis Raise

Local 80 has also announced a supplemental agreement signed with the G. D. Ellis can plant for a 10c per hour general wage increase, effective Nov. 21, when overtime will be eliminated in the plant.

On Strike since the middle of October, members of Local 4-A in Jacksonville, Fla., took economic action as a result of the refusal of the Eppinger and Russell Company to comply with a War Labor Board order issued a year ago. The Company had put the wage increases in effect but refused some of the back pay due the employees. Other demands of the 175 workers in the plant include wage increases, vacations with pay, improved sanitary and safety conditions and a signed contract.

2 Congressmen Support American Tobbacco Strike

Philadelphia, Pa.—Senator Frances J. Myers and Congressman William T. Granahan, both of Pennsylvania, pledged their support for the American Tobacco strikers' demands and affirmed that tobacco producers can easily afford to pay minimum wages of 65c per hour.

In a letter to the Union, Senator Myers said, "I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter asking my support to the members of the Food, Tobacco and Agricultural Workers in their struggle for the 65c minimum wage and the no-discrimination clause in union contracts. On both questions you can be assured of my full cooperation.

Industry Can Pay

"As I pointed out in a statement before the Senate Education and Labor Sub-committee, considering the Minimum Wage Bill," the Senator continued, "tobacco producers would be required to increase their pay rolls by only 11% in order to pay the minimum wage of 65c. In addition I explained that wage payments in the tobacco industry constitute approximately 6% of the value of the product. I do not believe that paying workers a minimum wage for a minimum standard of living would result in any undue hardship to tobacco producers. I do not believe that any producer should be subsidized from the wages of their own workers . . . Good luck to you in your struggle!"

Congressman Granahan expressed a similar opinion in a statement he made prior to his appearance on the FTA picket line at the Company's Philadelphia plant. "The strikers' demands are close to the legislative battle going on now in Washington for a 65c minimum wage for which I have been working and will continue to work until this legislation is passed," he said.

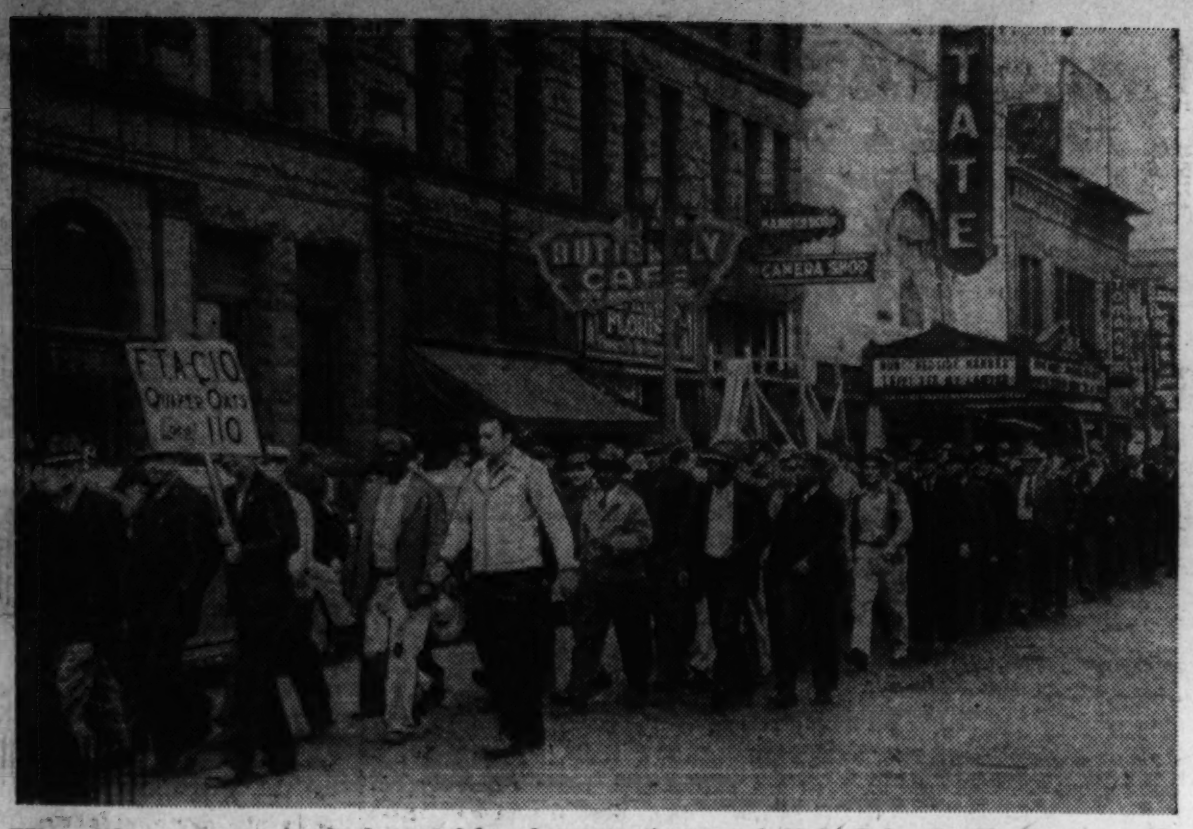
"I feel a general increase in wages is necessary in all industry in order that high standards of living in this country may be maintained. I therefore believe that the demands of the employees of the American Tobacco Company should be met by the Company at this time."

Profits Soared

The Congressman pointed out what the Union has maintained as proof of the Company's ability to pay: "that the American Tobacco Co., whose profits soared during the war can afford a wage increase without jeopardizing its financial resources." . . . that . . . "excess profits taxes are now being abolished by Congress. The American Tobacco Company in 1941 to 1944 paid an average of $13,833,945 a year in excess profits taxes. A 25c an hour wage increase for 2500 workers working 40 hours per week for 52 weeks would be $1,300,000, less than 10% of the annual tax the Company will no longer have to pay to the government."

Local 186 members served Congressman Granahan with coffee and doughnuts after he had taken his turn on the picket line.

(See more on American Tobacco strike on Page 1.)



Marching along in the largest labor demonstration ever held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, are the members of Local 110 who work in the Quakter Oats and Cargill plants. The nine-block long parade was organized recently by the CIO Industrial Union Council to acquaint the citizens of Cedar Rapids with the CIO program. Local CIO delegations carried signs plugging for the maintenance of take home pay, better homes, price and rent control, etc. Loud speakers blared forth from trucks. Local 110 members turned out in great numbers after arrangements were made with the management to close the plants down at 1:30 pm.

Rita Riley, Local 110 Shop Steward, captured first prize of a $25 war bond in the Local's recent membership drive. Rita signed up 49 of the total 300 new members who came into the Local during the drive. Asst. Chief Shop Steward, Rita works in the package Dept. and is on the Negotiating Committee.

By Agnes Dvorak, Agent

Gals Get In The Groove

By J. N. Billings, Reporter

Akron, Ohio — Women won't be sitting on the sidelines anymore in Local 120. The ice was broken when Dolores Stetler and Grace Frase went as delegates to the Ohio-Michigan Area Council held in Detroit on November 4. As delegates to this convention these two girls are the first to take the responsibility of representing our Local in an important trade union policy meeting. Now try and stop 'em.

Local 120 gave moral and financial support to the striking Hills Bros. workers of Local 207. At the recent membership meeting, funds were contributed and letters were sent to the Company condemning its anti-union attitude.

All Union members and their families will have the time of their lives at a Christmas party to be given by the Local around December 15, according to Entertainment Committee Chairman J. Schutt.

Local 194 Goes To Town

By Veronica Kryzan, Reporter

ARMED with the slogan that "a strong well informed Shop Stewards' Council and leadership makes for 100% Union." Local 194 has launched leadership training courses under the direction of Herman Schendel of the Abraham Lincoln School in Chicago.

Held at the Union headquarters, the courses come in series of six each, once a week. Subjects under discussion are: The Stewards and the Union; The Stewards and the first step in grievance procedure; How Stewards should handle grievances; What does a good Steward do; The Steward and out-of-shop grievances; Some things to think about on the grievance procedure.

Local 194 has already seen results from these classes in the 1,600 workers who joined the Union during October in the more efficient handling of grievances.

The "close the gap" drive was launched in order to get 100% support for the FTA program for better wages, hours and working conditions, as well as to get financial support for the Northern California Cannery Drive.

Headed by Regional Director Jack Fox, the drive got off to a good start after a long period of time spent in preparing the groundwork. Already, Local 194's new strength at Campbell's Soup Company has meant the prompt settling of many grievances that had been lying around unsettled for months. Many of these grievances were settled in the first and second steps of the grievance procedure without going to the third and fourth steps as they did in the past. Local 194 members agree that 100% membership in the plant is the only way to get 100% benefits from the Union.

Local 194's drive to gain added strength came not a moment too soon, in the face of the Campbell's Soup Company's attempts to get back to "the good old days" of speed-up and union-busting. However, where these tactics might have gone over in the days of the 1920's, the Company has a strong local to contend with now.

The Company's first onslaught which the Union is prepared to resist is the intended discharge of some 400 workers for so-called "inefficiency."

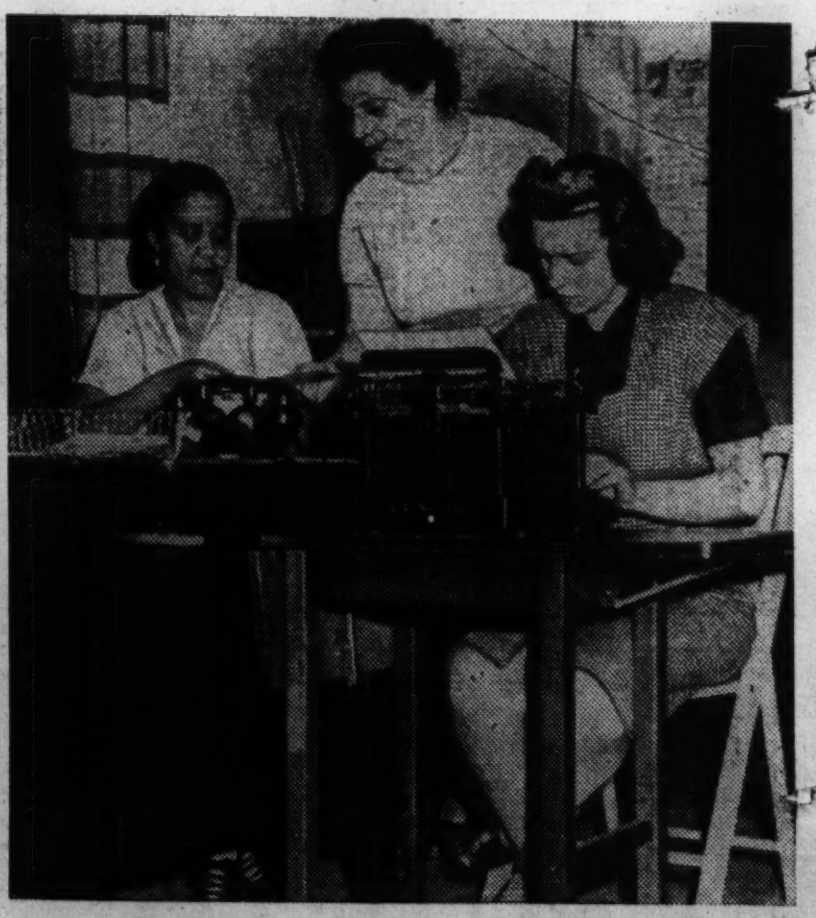
Food manufacturers have long enjoyed a favorable portion of the profits of American industry. And yet, their greed for profits is never satisfied. The launching of this new offensive against the workers would cut wages, create fewer jobs and is a direct slap in the face of the returning veteran who fought so hard so that plants like Campbell's Soup would not be bombed. Huge profits during the war were not enough for Campbell's Soup's greedy appetite, now they are trying to wring superprofits from the workers' sweat and toil.

Local 14 is determined to take the matter up with the members and request that they resist the attempts of the Company to impose the added burden of more work on them. We are determined to hang together and not allow ourselves to be hanged separately. Old timers at the plant remember those "good old days" of 35c an hour. The sacrifices made to win a war against fascism were made for the purpose of ending such inhuman conditions.

As good Americans, Local 194 members want to go forward to a better standard of living and not backward to the Company's "good old days." With unity and determination the Union intends to go forward.

Eager students of Local 194's leadership training school gather around after class to discuss a few points with instructor Herman Schendel, Trade Union Education Director of the Abraham Lincoln School. Reading from l. to r.: Herman Schendel; Campbell's Soup Shop Stewards Cora Davis, Minnie Ripe, Leavie Garnir and Wm. Blount; and Steffen Vinegar Co. Division Chairman John Buckley.

Unity between Locals 80 and 194 was symbolized by the exchange of honorary memberships when the two Executive Boards met in Chicago to plan joint wage demands to Campbell's Soup. John Gallacher, Local 194 Pres., is shown presenting an honorary membership to Local 80 Pres. Herbert Kling, while Local 80 Executive Board members Ambler Bailey, Frank DeMaio, John Vederosa, and Local 194 Bus. Agt. Paul Gardner look on.



Over 1,600 new members are being added to the steadily growing membership files of Local 194 as the result of the October "close the gap" drive. Shown getting the names on the Union records are: Office Secy. Betty Robinson, Chief Steward for women Josephine Chlupsa and Fin. Secy. Veronica Kryzan. Josephine came out of the plant to assist in the office.

770 Letters a Week Ain't Hay

By O. E. McKaine, Int. Org.

Columbia, S. C.—A minimum of 770 letters to Congress, urging the passage of the Pepper-Hook 65c minimum wage bills, are pouring out of FTA Locals in South and North Carolina and Virginia weekly.

Local 22 of Winston-Salem, N. C., reports that at least 500 letters weekly are being written by the members and their friends, topping by 200 its pledge at the recent Tri-State Council meeting where the campaign on the Pepper-Hook bills was mapped out.

Other Locals in the Tri-State Region are reporting similar success in the campaign. Local 26 in Suffolk, Va., under the direction of Int. Rep. John Hunt, has been going over its pledge of 50 letters weekly and has involved other community organizations, including the local NAACP. Writing tables equipped with stationery, pen and ink, as well as sample letters to follow, are available to the membership in the Uni hall.

Strikers Write Letters

The legislative campaign for the 65c minimum wage has taken on added significance in Local 15, Charleston, S. C., where the workers are out on strike for a 65c hourly minimum at the American Tobacco plant there. Local 15 pledged 150 letters to Congress weekly.

Locals 45 and 57 in Richmond, Va., pledged 20 letters each a week, and even the Organizing Committee at the Buckeye Cotton Seed Oil plant in Charlotte, N. C., has been writing 10 letters a week.

Here in Columbia, the Organizing Committee of the Swift & Company Cotton Seed Oil Mill has been averaging some 40 letters a week.

PAC literature and leaflets are of great help in the letter-writing campaign, the locals report. They are being widely distributed in the communities.

Plan Wage Campaigns In Ind.-Ill.

Chicago, Ill. — FTA's post-war wage program was the basis for discussion at the Indiana-Illinois Regional Conference held in Indianapolis on November 4.

Some 24 delegates attended, representing Indiana Locals 62, Mt. Vernon; 44 and 93, Decatur; 39, Shelbyville; 32, Elwood; 48, Summitville; 84, Indianapolis; and Illinois Locals 13 and 194, Chicago; 47, Blue Island; 17, Rochelle; and 18, DeKalb. Also attending were Regional Director Jack Fox, CIO Rep. Pete Markunas, Int. Rep. John Sloan Int. Org. Kenneth Hirschy and Walter Frisbee, Secy.-Treas. of the Indiana State IUC.

To support the FTA and CIO demands for 30% wage increases to replace reductions in overtime, Regional Director Jack Fox urged the Locals to reopen their contracts on the wage question. Other issues to be taken up in contract negotiations are: abolition of seasonal exemptions, equal pay for equal work, veteran's rights, check-off, union shop, and 65c hourly minimum.

Political Action

Additional action on these issues will be taken through political action supporting the Pepper-Hook 65c Minimum Bills, abolition of seasonal exemptions under the Wage and Hour law, permanent FEPC, etc.

Locals were urged to learn to function on their own in contract negotiating and organizing work. Help will be given by the Regional Council through leadership training and PAC and Education directives.

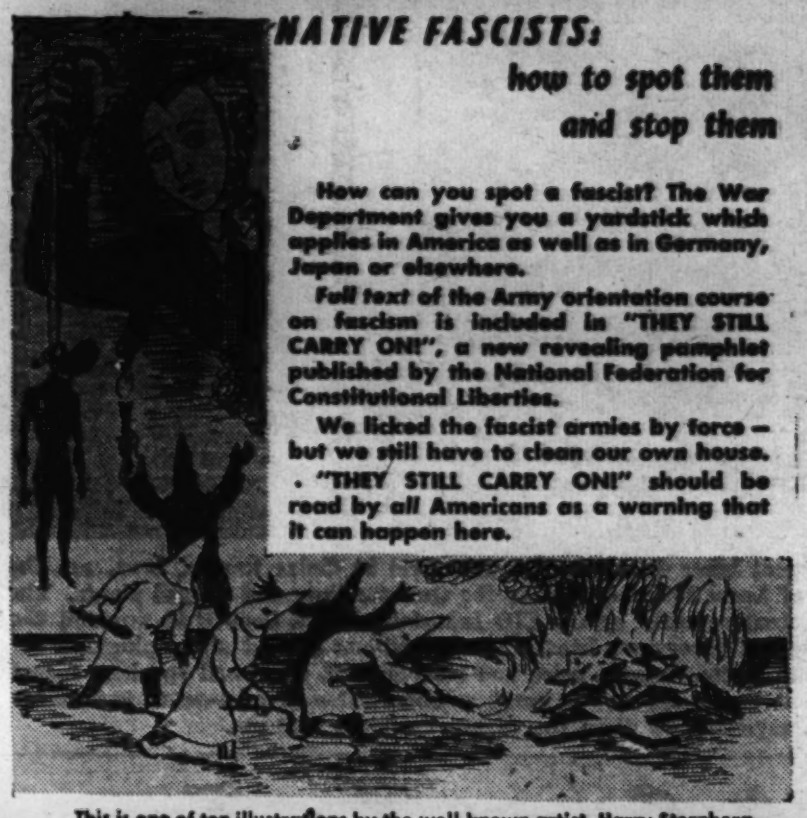
The delegates voted to establish PAC and Education Directors in each local and to devote 15-20 minutes of each meeting to the discussion of legislation and education. All locals are to affiliate to the State PAC.

SUPPORT VICTORY LOAN OCT. 29-DEC. 8 BY BUYING BONDS

VICTORY LOAN

Strikes and Lockouts for August, 1945
Unemployment rate for weeks following V-J Day, August, 1945

THEY STILL CARRY ON!


NATIVE FASCISTS:
how to spot them
and stop them
How can you spot a fascist? The War Department gives you a yardstick which applies in America as well as in Germany, Japan or elsewhere.
Full text of the Army orientation course on fascism is included in "THEY STILL CARRY ON!", a new revealing pamphlet published by the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties.
We licked the fascist armies by force — but we still have to clean our own house. . "THEY STILL CARRY ON!" should be read by all Americans as a warning that it can happen here.

This is one of ten illustrations by the well-known artist, Harry Sternberg, in "THEY STILL CARRY ON!", a 24 page pamphlet now widely distributed at ten cents a copy by the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, 205 East 42nd Street, New York 17.

FTA Solidarity Honor Roll

THE FTA locals listed below have set an inspiring example of labor solidarity for all to follow. In response to an appeal from Int. Secy.-Treas. Harold J. Lane, these locals contributed generously toward the success of FTA's historic organizing campaign on the West Coast.

Other locals may well honor the example of true trade unionism set by Locals 319 and 182, particularly. The members of these locals are agricultural workers — sharecroppers — whose wages are among the very lowest, and who cannot enjoy the benefits of a union contact. Yet they dug down deep into their jeans to help bring the benefits of FTA organization to the cannery workers of Northern California.

Another local that knows the meaning of "cooperation," is Local 55, which not only contributed to the Local 207 strike fund and to the fight for a 65c minimum law, but shelled out an additional $915 to the West Coast drive. "I am certain that if all the Local Unions contributed in the same manner that Local 55 has done," they were told in a letter from Secy.-Treas. Lane, "the labor movement in America would be far greater and stronger, and we would be able to accomplish and maintain additional benefits and gains."

Contributors to the West Coast Cannery Drive:

Local 55, Middletown, Ohio
Local 297, Toledo, Ohio
Local 75, Houston, Texas
Local 91, New Orleans, Louisiana
Local 113, Longmont, Colorado
Local 179, Toledo, Ohio
Local 182, Port Gibson, Mississippi
Local 18, DeKalb, Illinois
Local 32, Elwood, Indiana
Local 62, Mt. Vernon, Indiana
Local 319, Durant, Oklahoma

Ask For Strike Vote At Southern Biscuit

By Max Sussman, Business Agent, Local 57

Richmond, Va. — In answer to the Southern Biscuit Company's refusal to negotiate a new agreement, the membership of Local 57 voted 100% on Nov. 12 to petition for a strike vote under the Labor Disputes Act. Instead of negotiating, the Company offered to wipe out the best features of the present contract.

The Union is demanding a 65c minimum wage and a 25c hourly raise; a union shop (the Local is now 100% organized); better vacations; and holiday pay and vacations for returning veterans.

Feeling among the employees is high against the Company's attempt to break down grievance procedures and the check-off, cut the shift differential and impose various forms of layoffs as discipline in the event of absenteeism.

To show the Company we mean business, the workers wear mimeographed armbands reading: 'Stop Stalling! We're Starving!"; "Dough Is What We Bake, But It's Not What We Make;" and "We Want 65c Minimum, Not A Turkey Dinner!"

"Turkey Dinner" refers to last year when the Company served turkey in an attempt to prevent Union organization. But, at the same time, the Company gypped the workers out of overtime pay for two holidays, which the Union later recovered. Don't mention turkeys around Local 57!

Local 57 and 45 sent $100 each as a contribution to the American Tobacco strikers. The Richmond CIO Council has also contributed $25.

Notes from the Locals

Labor Solidarity

70 Lima, Ohio — Some 22 new members have been signed up in the past month by Chief Shop Steward Sally Sullivan at the Deisel-Wemmer-Gilbert cigar plant here. Sally got her results from a series of excellent department meetings where she spoke on organized labor and political action. "I'm mighty proud of this Local," said Sally. "Our members are honest and have the strength to fight for what is right."

At the October 25 membership meeting, Local 70 voted to contribute $1 per member for the West Coast Cannery Drive and to aid the Hills Bros. strike. Our members fully realize what it would mean to drop from $1.04 an hour to 45c an hour and to be out of work while our bosses employed prisoners of war. That is why we sent a strong letter to the Hills Bros. Company, protesting their attitude to their workers.

Action was taken in support of the Pepper-Hook 65c minimum wage bills. And Local 70 contributed $200 to the Community Chest..

By Virginia Stedeke, Rec. Sec'y

Get Back Pay

93 Decatur, Ind. — Local 93's new contract with the Kraft Cheese Company was signed on September 26. It included wage increases retroactive to July 1, and the workers received back pay checks ranging from $5 up to over $100 each. We have a Union Shop in our new contract, and we believe it should be in every contract as it makes for a stronger Union.

Newly elected officers of the Local are: Roy Kocher, Pres.; Gerald Lewis, Vice-Pres.; Virgil Wolfe, Fin. Sec.; and Jesse Fry, Rec. Sec. The new Shop Stewards are: Floyd Hullinger, Cheese Dept.; William Dague, Maintenance Dept.; Melvin Tinkham, Krafteen Dept.; and Ed Shoe, Shipping Dept. Doris Williamson was elected Trustee for the third term, and Adam Ruf is Sgt.-at-Arms.

By Roy Kocher, Pres.

Win 7½c Raise

232 Helena, Ark. — Local 232's new contract with the Helena Compress Company won for the workers a 7½c an hour raise and three holidays with pay along with other gains.

The Negotiating Committee was headed by the Local Sec.-Treas. George Shaw, and assisted by Int. Rep. Harry Koger. They are now hard at work on a new contract with the Federal Compress Co.

By George Shaw, Reporter

Win Union Shop

236 Whitewater, Wis. — Recent contract negotiations between Local 236 and the Hawthorn Melody Company won for the workers a Union Shop and a 65c hourly minimum wage after their first 300 hours on the job. Negotiations were carried on by a committee composed of the Shop Stewards and headed by Pres. George West.

Home For A Hero

297 Toledo, Ohio — Over $80.00 was collected by the workers at the Woolson Spice Co. for the "Home for a Hero Fund." The Union contributed $10 to the collection, while the rest was made up of individual workers' donations. The Fund will be used to buy a home for Sgt. Carl Winzeler, a seriously wounded hero of World War II.

By Virginia Lee, Reporter

Here's Proof For Wage Case

Washington, D. C.—Here are just a few reasons why substantial wage increases are needed—according to government studies.

The CIO Executive Board recently made public a report by government economists which, so far, the government has suppressed. The report, made for the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion, showed:

1. Between April, 1945, and the spring of 1946, total salaries and wages will have gone down $30 billion to $35 billion.

2. Estimated profits of major corporations, after taxes, will be $7½ billion—higher than the wartime peak. For all business, the figure will be $11 billion.

3. The average worker's weekly pay in 1946 is estimated at $33.96, which will buy 3% less than the average wage of $26.64 in 1941. After taxes are paid, the 1946 income will buy what $23.95 bought in 1941—a 10% cut.

4. Reduction of overtime, elimination of wartime upgrading and repeal of excess profits taxes alone will reduce corporate costs in 1946 enough to permit a 24% pay raise.

Wage Boosts, No Price Rise Needed—Truman

Washington, D. C.—Warning against the disastrous effects of a $20 billion pay cut facing American workers, Pres. Truman Oct. 30 called on industry, in a radio address, to increase wage rates to compensate for the cut in take-home pay now that war production is over.

The President offered no formula and suggested no percentage of increase but gave five reasons why, he said, American industry can well afford to grant substantial increases and thus avoid the dangers of deflation, unemployment and relief.

No Price Increase

Industry's proposal for price increases to make up for wage increases "cannot be accepted under any circumstances," Truman declared. "To accept it would mean but one thing — inflation. . . . An increase in wages, if it were accompanied by an increase in the cost of living, would not help even the workers themselves. Every extra dollar that would be put in their pay envelopes under those circumstances would be needed to meet the higher living expenses resulting from increased prices."

At the same time Truman told labor that "we cannot hope, with a reduced work-week, to maintain now the same take-home pay for labor generally that it has had during the war. There will have to be a drop. But the nation cannot afford to have that drop too drastic."

He also vigorously attacked two congressional committees for holding up action for months on the full employment bill and proposals to increase unemployment compensation payments, and called on Congress to reverse its decision to kill the U. S. Employment Service.

Truman's wage raising recommendations were implemented with an amendment to Executive Order 9599, issued Aug. 18, which had permitted wage increases where they would not be used as the basis for asking higher prices for prducts.

The amendment, known as Executive Order 9651, sets forth three classes of cases in which wage increases may be granted even though price ceiling increases may result. "They are all situations where wage increases are necessary, irrespective of price increases," Truman said. "They will not cause many price increases."

Collective Bargaining

Truman also devoted a substantial portion of his radio speech to urging upon industry and labor alike more "real collective bargaining" and the use of "good sense," "reasonableness" and "give-and-take" between the two parties.

"I am convinced," he said, "that we must get away as quickly as possible from government controls and that we must get back to the free operation of our competitive system. Where wages are concerned, this means that we must get back to free and fair collective bargaining."

But, he added, decisions reached in collective bargaining "must be kept within the limits laid down by the wage-price policy of the government."

TRUMAN SAID:

"There are several reasons why I believe that industry as a whole can afford substantial wage increases without price increases. First, the elimination of time-and-a-half for overtime has reduced labor costs per hour."

TRUMAN SAID:

"There are several reasons why I believe that industry as a whole can afford substantial wage increases without price increases . . . Second, the increase in the number of people needing jobs is resulting in a downward reclassification of jobs in many industries and in many sections of the country."

Swing Into PAC Drive

By Evelyn Hellinger, Reporter

Baltimore, Md. — The first political action campaign among the recently organized Lord Motts and Gibbs cannery workers started out with a letter-writing drive to Congress on the Pepper-Hook 65c Minimum bills.

It was hard at first for many members to figure out just how to begin. Most of them had never written a letter to their Congressmen. But mimeographed sample letters passed out at the Union meeting gave them good ideas, and from then on it was smooth sailing.

FTA has been taking an active part in the Baltimore CIO Anti-Discrimination Committee through Int. Rep. Joseph Hellinger who is serving as the committee's secretary. In an interview with the Baltimore Evening Sun, Hellinger revealed that the committee will start off with a fight to end Jim Crow on a Baltimore bus line and in a local theatre. It aims to end all Jim Crows laws in Maryland.

"Jim Crow in all its forms," Hellinger said, "is un-American and during the war was an ally of Hitler. Hitler's dead, but Jim Crow still lives. It is the duty of all Americans to see that Hitlerism in all of its Fascist forms is eliminated from the American way of life."

DO YOU KNOW?

Corporations will benefit from the repeal of the excess profits tax, which means $2.7 billion in savings to employers in 1946.

Also, as we go from a 48-hour to a 40-hour week, industry will save 9% in the form of reduced costs due to elimination of overtime. Or, to put it another way, with the shorter work-week, a 10% wage increase costs the employer nothing.

CIO Fights On Wage Issue At L-M Conference

Washington, D. C.—Hundreds of wires from CIO locals and industrial union councils have been pouring into Washington supporting CIO Pres. Philip Murray's stand at the National Labor-Management Conference for conference endorsement of "immediate and substantial wage increases."

Opposition to his wage resolution in the conference executive committee from the AFL, management and John L. Lewis brought Murray to declare his intention to bring the fight before the whole conference if necessary. At the conference executive committee meeting on November 16, the AFL-John L. Lewis-management combination refused to vote on the resolution and attempted to duck the wage issue by referring it to a subcommittee.

AFL Pussyfooting

AFL Pres. William Green originally said he would not vote for the resolution because it called for collective bargaining within the framework of Pres. Truman's call for higher wages. When Murray, "to yield to Green's whims," offered to withdraw reference to Truman and replace it with a plain declaration in favor of "substantial wage increases," the AFL President said he still wouldn't vote for it. His lame excuse was that the call for "immediate and substantial wage increases" might be misunderstood in collective bargaining.

United Mine Workers Pres. John L. Lewis, also opposing Murray's call for collective bargaining for substantial wage increases, outmanaged even management by introducing his own resolution. It called for speed-up and expansion of production to make possible lower costs, shorter hours and higher wages.

Will Continue Fight

"We are going to continue our fight for a declaration on the need for substantial wage increases," Murray said. "It is the most important issue before the conference, which cannot dodge its responsibility to the nation in this regard."

He pointed to U. S. Dept. of Commerce figures showing that corporations would have estimated profits of $6.8 billion in 1946. The total estimated drop in national income, he said, would be $36 billions, while wage earners in manufacturing alone will suffer an average loss in take-home pay of $10.75 a week.

"The nation cannot stand such a drop as this," Murray said. "It is therefore the duty of this conference to recognize this fact and to take a stand to correct it."

Testify For Equal Pay Legislation

Washington, D. C.—Hearings on the Equal Pay for Equal Work bill, which would bar discrimination in wages on account of sex and which would pave the way for the elimination of men's and women's classifications in job rates, are now in progress in the Senate Labor and Education Subcommittee.

Secy. of Labor Lewis Schwellenbach, Women's Bureau Director Frieda Miller and representatives of labor, women's, religious and consumer's groups have already testified in favor of the bill.

Wipe Out Differentials

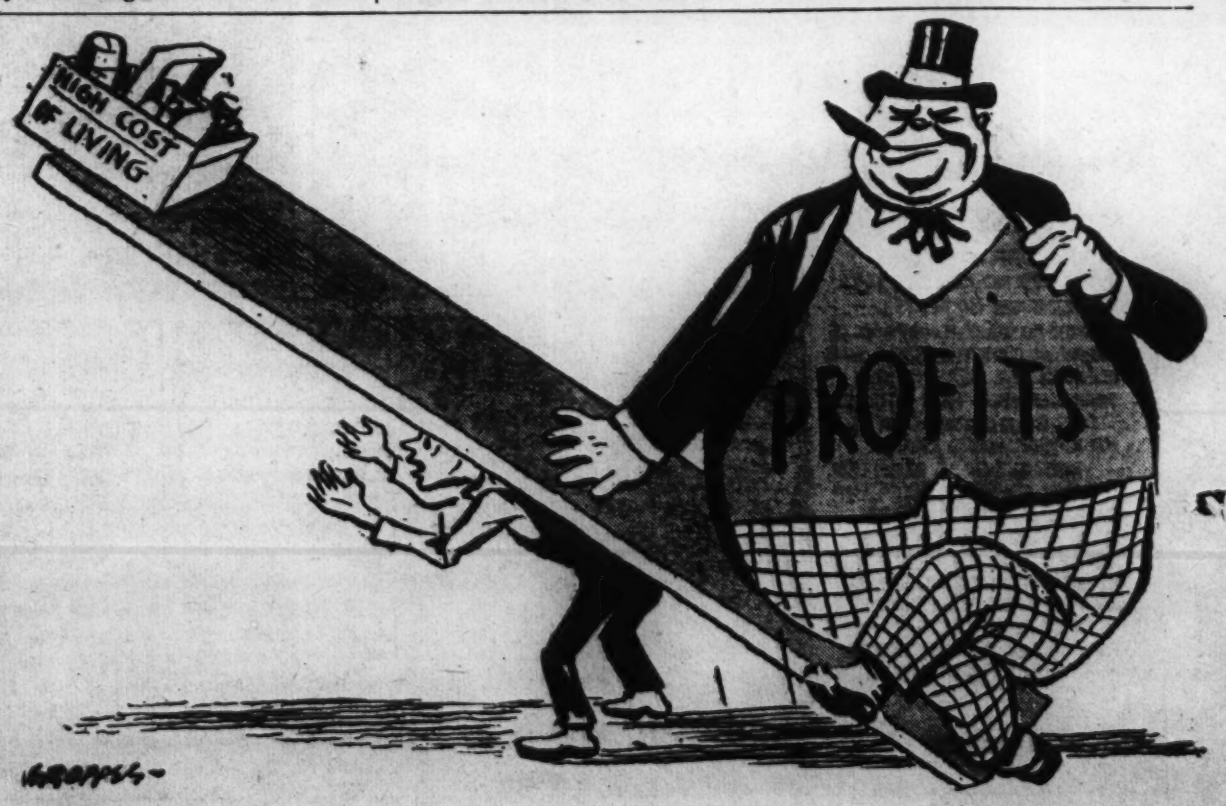
The bill, S 1178, entitled the "Women's Equal Pay Act of 1945," is sponsored by Sens. Claude Pepper (D., Fla.) and Wayne Morse (R., Ore.). It points up the dangers of differentials and declares the intent "to correct and, as rapidly as possible, to eliminate discriminatory wage practices based on sex."

The act describes as "unfair wage practice" payment of lower wages to female employes "for work of comparable quality and quantity," and lay off or discharge of a female employe to be replaced by a male employe without good cause.

No "Special" Consideration

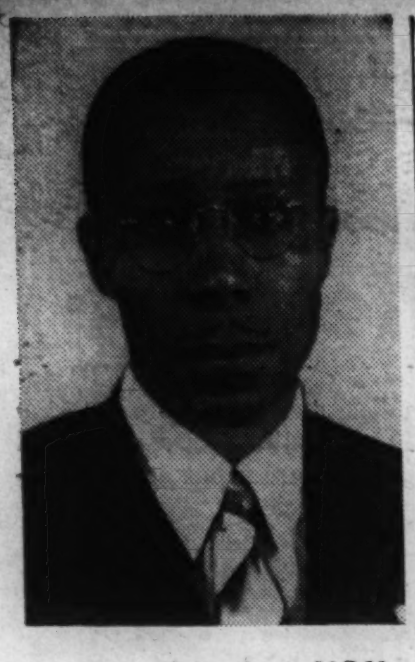
Schwellenbach told the committee the bill does not ask special consideration for women, but "if they turn out the same quantity and quality of work, they should receive the same compensation," he said.

Six states have enacted equal pay legislation, he pointed out, but "competition in other states with lower standards makes even the best state law difficult to enforce and may cause migration of industry out of the state to those having less restrictive laws. Only the establishment of uniform standards against wage discrimination can afford adequate protection to the standards established by individual States," he said.



From the Fur and Leather Worker

UNION MEN IN UNIFORM



Jacob Clady, USN,

recently discharged after 22 month's service, is back at his post in FTA as Alternate International Vice-President.

"Although victory has been won," said Brother Clady, "we still have an important job to do; that is the job of establishing an everlasting peace. This job will have to be done by all organizations, labor, business, religious and civic. Another war within the next ten years would mean the destruction of humanity We can't build the peace as individuals alone. It was cooperation that won the war, and it will mean cooperation to build the peace. We all want to enjoy the freedom we fought for.

"I've seen many examples of unity between the different nations and races during the war; but there is room for improvement. We will have to understand one another better. Prejudice is slowly undermining our democratic way of life. When strife exists among people, they are never able to solve their problems in an intelligent and unified way.

"All of us are loyal to our country; we have all sacrificed, some of us with our lives.

"Personally, I believe the Negro people have made a fine contribution to our nation in spite of the fact that the prejudice of others has been a great drawback to their desires for economic security. And, as a result of the FEPC, they have been able to make a real contribution to winning the war.

"Let us learn well the lessons of United Nations Cooperation and Negro-white unity which we learned during the war. They will stand us in good stead for the big job we have ahead."

N. Y. CIO Council Starts Campaign To "Bring the Boys Home Now"

New York, N. Y.—The New York CIO Council's "Ship the Boys Home Now" campaign to force the responsible government agencies to speed troop demobilization, opened on November 16 with a parade of 300 CIO leaders and several hundred veterans carrying posters and distributing leaflets.

"They Licked the Fascists, They've Got the Points—Now Let's Bring Then Home," read some of the posters. Postcards addressed to President Truman demanding the immediate return of all U. S. Servicemen overseas except those needed for occupation duties, were also distributed.

Keep Out of China

The campaign was launched following a New York CIO Council meeting at which a resolution was adopted demanding that the U. S. stop using our troops to interfere in the internal affairs of the Chinese people.

An outgrowth of the National Maritime Union's revelation that ships are being used for private commerce, or to meddle in China, or laid up in U. S. ports, while the boys are stranded, the CIO plans to carry the campaign to its members overseas.

GI's Gratified

Already the GI's overseas are happy to find out that organized labor is leading the campaign to get them home by Christmas. The news of the CIO demand that every American vessel be used for the speedy return of American Troops to the U. S. hit the front page of the Pacific Stars and Stripes October 27 edition.

Hundreds of letters from GI's and their wives and families have been received congratulating the National Maritime Union on its decision not to man any vessels but those carrying troops after December 1. This news also rated a page 1 headline in the Paris edition of Stars and Stripes.

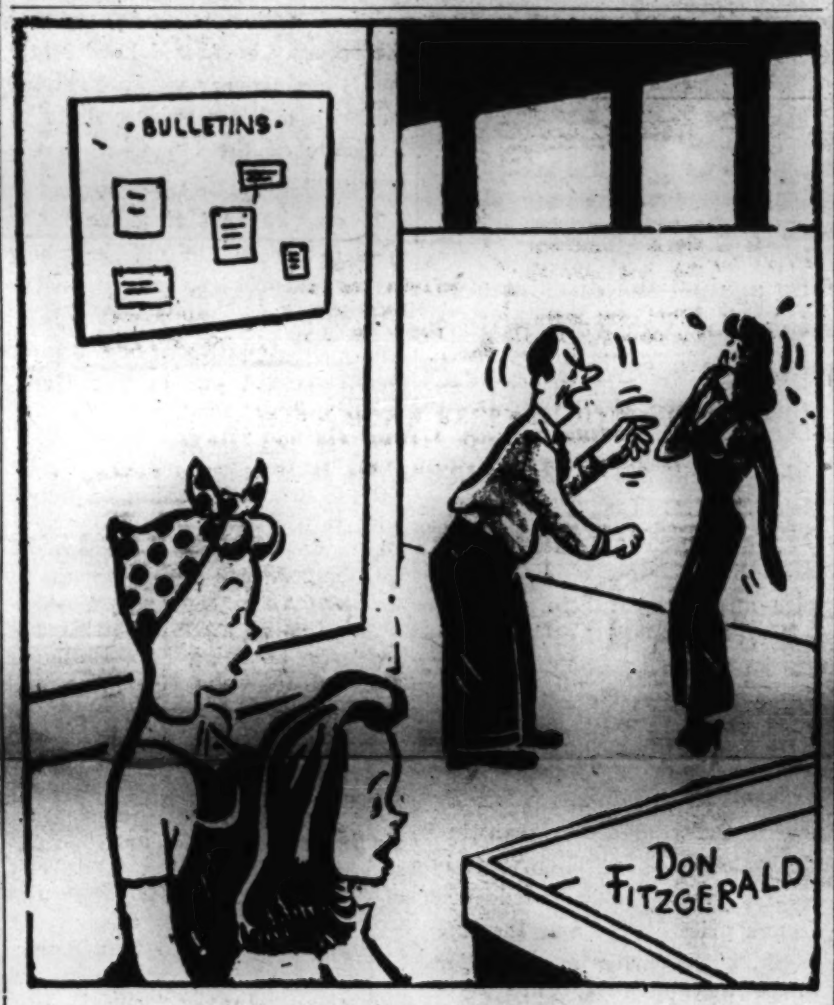
HELP RETRAIN DISABLED VETS BUY BONDS DURING THE VICTORY LOAN

CIO and DAV Cooperate on Veterans Program at DAV Convention

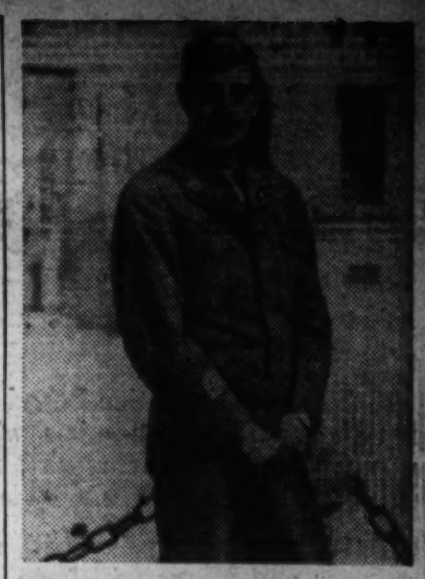
Washington, D. C.—Cooperation with the CIO on a number of crucial veteran's issues was indicated by the Disabled American Veterans, third largest veterans organization in the country, at its convention on October 22-26.

The convention, addressed by Vice-Pres. John Grogan of the CIO Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers, went on record criticizing Selective Service Director Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey's super-seniority theory, saying it "may result in law suits, and possibly strikes between veterans and non-veterans."

DAV also joined the CIO in opposing the return of the U. S. Employment Service to the States, and in condemning poll-taxers Sen. Theo. Bilbo and Rep. John Rankin.



"I Wrote Fred That If He Thinks His Sergeant Is Tough, Wait Till He Meets Our Foreman"
—From BOMB RELEASE, UAW-CIO Local 31.



Pfc. John DeCostanza,

a member of Local 207, came home from the victory in Europe just in time to join in the Local's victory celebration following the settlement of the Hills Bros. strike in Brooklyn, N. Y.

On his sleeve, Brother DeCostanza wears the symbol for Meritorious Service, and on his chest he proudly wears the European campaign ribbon with three battle stars signifying action in Rome, Florence and Bologne. He also saw action with the 88th Infantry Division, known as the "Blue Devils," in Naples, Monticatina, Vincent, Feltre, Genoa and Venice.

Pfc. DeCostanza had the opportunity of seeing Mussolini and his mistress in their last public appearance — when they were hung by the Italian people in Milan!

Inducted in November, 1942, he is now awaiting discharge from the army.

Welcome Home!

FTA welcomes the return of the following members from the armed forces:

Myles M. Martin and Thomas A. Six of Local 155; Edgar Fuelling, Ambrose Monnier, F. Cleon Bichel, Charles Hoskins and Donald Schafer of Local 44.

Are there any newly returned veterans in your Local? Write and inform the FTA News.

THE Story of Labor
LOWELL, MASS. WAS THE TEXTILE MILL CENTER. THOUSANDS OF GIRLS WORKED 75 HOURS A WEEK FOR $2. PLUS BOARD, IN THE BARRACKS-LIKE BOARDING HOUSES. THE MILL OWNERS SET UP A RIGID "PATERNALISM." EVERY MOVE, EVERY ACT OF THE GIRLS WAS CONTROLLED. HEAVY FINES WERE LEVIED FOR INFRACTIONS OF THE RULES UNTIL NO WAGES WERE LEFT....
WHEN THE GIRLS REBELLED, THE MILL OWNERS SENT "SLAVERS" TO CANADA TO IMPORT FRENCH CATHOLICS WITH FANCY PROMISES WHICH WERE NEVER KEPT. SETTING RACE AGAINST RACE, RELIGION AGAINST RELIGION, THEY MADE ENORMOUS PROFITS UNDER SWEATSHOP CONDITIONS....
JOE WORKER
157
AT FIRST THE MILL GIRLS WERE ALL NATIVE-BORN; PROTESTANTS AND A FEW JEWISH. THE OWNERS TREATED THEM LIKE INMATES OF A JAIL....
YOU MUST NOT JOIN A UNION! YOU SLEEP IN OUR HOUSES, ATTEND OUR CHURCHES, BUY FROM COMPANY STORES ONLY! YOU MUST BE IN BED BY 10 AT NIGHT! IF ANY RULE IS BROKEN, YOU PAY A FINE OF $1. EACH TIME!
THIS SOUNDS LIKE SLAVERY!
GET UP! YOU LAZY SLUTS! IT'S 5-O-CLOCK!
IT'S NO MORE THAN FOUR! THEY'RE CHEATING US AGAIN WITH THEIR CLOCKS!
RING!
THEY CHEATED THE GIRLS ON THEIR LUNCH TIME, TOO, AND ON THEIR PAY. WHEN PAYDAY CAME AROUND....
ESTHER LEVY, YOU'RE FINED $1. YOU DIDN'T ATTEND CHURCH LAST SUNDAY. ALICE ADAMS, YOU'RE FINED $2. YOU BOUGHT CANDY IN A PRIVATE STORE!
THAT ISN'T FAIR! I GO TO A SYNAGOGUE!
WHAT, NO PAY AT ALL THIS WEEK?
THE GIRLS DECIDED TO STRIKE, SO THE MILL-OWNER SENT "SLAVERS" TO LURE GIRLS FROM CANADA TO BREAK THE STRIKE
WE PAY YOU $2. A WEEK AND BOARD. THE WORK IS EASY AND YOU DRESS IN SILKS AND SATINS! YOU SAVE EVERY PENNY YOU MAKE!
SILKS AND SATINS! I NEVER HAD A SILK DRESS IN MY LIFE! I'LL GO, MONSIEUR!
THE CANADIAN GIRLS FOUND LONG HOURS AND LOW PAY INSTEAD, BUT THEY HAD NO MONEY TO GO HOME. AS A RESULT THE STRIKE WAS BROKEN AND...
THAT MAN TOLD ME LIES!
SERVES YOU RIGHT, YOU DIRTY CATHOLIC CANUCK! IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR YOU AND YOUR KIND WE'D HAVE WON!
DON'T CALL NAMES, ALICE! THAT'S WHAT THE BOSS WANTS!
NOW THEY'LL NEVER UNITE!
BUT JOE WORKER KNEW THE ANSWER TO THAT ONE....
YOU'RE TREATED LIKE SLAVES BECAUSE THE EMPLOYERS GOT YOU THINKING OF YOURSELVES AS CATHOLICS, PROTESTANTS, JEWS. REMEMBER ONLY THAT YOU'RE WORKERS AND YOU'LL WIN. EVERY TIME....
LIKE US...ADAMS, DESSAUD, LEVY!
DON'T LISTEN TO THAT UNION AGITATOR!